SHRegGetPath

The destination string buffer must be long enough to hold the return file path.

Sean Barnum, Cigital, Inc. [vita[1]]

2007-04-16

Part "Original Cigital Coding Rule in XML"

Mime-type: text/xml, size: 4044 bytes

Attack Category	• Malicious Input • Path spoofing or confusion problem
Vulnerability Category	• Buffer Overflow • Unconditional
Software Context	• File Path Management
Location	• shlwapi.h
Description	The destination string buffer for SHRegGetPath() must be long enough to hold the return file path. Otherwise, buffer overflows will occur. SHRegGetPath() retrieves a file path from the registry, expanding environment variables as needed.
APIs	<table><tr><th>FunctionName</th><th>Comments</th></tr><tr><td>SHRegGetPath</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>SHRegGetPathA</td><td>ASCII implementation</td></tr><tr><td>SHRegGetPathW</td><td>Unicode implementation</td></tr></table>
Method of Attack	Buffer Overflow
Exception Criteria	
Solutions	<table><tr><th>Solution Applicability</th><th>Solution Description</th><th>Solution Efficacy</th></tr><tr><td>Whenever SHRegGetPath() is called.</td><td>The fourth parameter, pszPath, must be at least MAX_PATH characters in length.</td><td>Effective.</td></tr></table>
Signature Details	DWORD SHRegGetPath(HKEY hkey, LPCTSTR pszSubkey, LPCTSTR pszValue, LPTSTR pszPath, DWORD dwFlags

---

1. http://buildsecurityin.us-cert.gov/bsi/about_us/authors/35-BSI.html (Barnum, Sean)

	`);`
| **Examples of Incorrect Code** | ```
TCHAR pszPath[15]; // Buffer is too small

HKEY hkey;
[...] // set hkey to a handle to a key that is currently open, or a registry root key.

DWORD result = SHRegGetPath(
hkey,
TEXT("MySubKey"),
TEXT("MYValue"),
pszPath,
0
);

if (result != ERROR_SUCCESS) { /* handle error */ }
``` |
| **Examples of Corrected Code** | ```
TCHAR pszPath[MAX_PATH]; // Buffer is properly sized

HKEY hkey;
[...] // set hkey to a handle to a key that is currently open, or a registry root key.

DWORD result = SHRegGetPath(
hkey,
TEXT("MySubKey"),
TEXT("MYValue"),
pszPath,
0
);

if (result != ERROR_SUCCESS) { /* handle error */ }
``` |
| **Source Reference** | |
| **Recommended Resources** | • MSDN reference for SHRegGetPath[2]
 • MSDN reference for Registry Functions[3] |

Discriminant Set	**Operating System**	• Windows
	Languages	• C
		• C++

Cigital, Inc. Copyright

For information regarding external or commercial use of copyrighted materials owned by Cigital, including information about "Fair Use," contact Cigital at copyright@cigital.com[1].

The Build Security In (BSI) portal is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Cyber Security Division. The Software Engineering Institute (SEI) develops and operates BSI. DHS funding supports the publishing of all site content.

---

1. mailto:copyright@cigital.com

ID: 834-BSI | Version: 3 | Date: 5/16/08 2:39:35 PM